

A Computer Analogy

Q: Can someone give me an analogy of how a computer works?

A: A Bicycle

The computer is like the frame. It is useless but waiting for components to make it complete and functional.

First you add the bottom bracket, the seatpost, and the fork to create a place for the wheels, handlebars, saddle, and pedals to attach. Just like the computer loads the system file so it has a place for the extensions, control panels, and finder.

You install the wheels and tires so the bike can react smoothly to bumps. They are like the extensions which load, which guide the way the computer responds to the continuous demands made of it. Then you instal the gears and pedals; these are like the control panels which let you customize the basic personality of the computer. Then you add seat and handlebars; these are like the finder, which allows the person to interface with the computer's information stores. Finally comes the rider...

The more experienced the rider (The OS) the better able they will be to handle the various courses on which they ride (Programs).

The more complex a course for the rider the more likely it will be that they will need to ride a bicycle of advanced

[Analogy cont'd on Pg. 2](#)

President's Column

by Veda Lewis

Planning For Digital Art Showcase In Full Swing

Hot News!

What better way for our club to bring the community together around the 'digital hearth' (the computer), than by sponsoring a Digital Art Showcase for Sonoma Valley residents? This event is on a short schedule, since the event will be part of our May 11th meeting. Our goal for the May meeting is to have a few of the artists show us how they use the computer to create their digital artwork. Following the formal meeting time, there will be an artist's reception with refreshments to kick off the show at about noontime. Artworks will be shown in the DeLong Room at the library for at least two weeks following the event.



Koala-bunny friends join SVCG President, Veda Lewis, in wishing you a happy March

[President cont'd on Pg. 3](#)

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Sonoma Valley Computer Group

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BOARD MEETINGS

Usually following General Meeting. Open to all members. Call 935-6690 for further information.

MEMBERSHIPS

S.V.C.G. Annual Membership: \$20.
S.V.C.G. Family/Couple membership: \$30 (residing at same address). Membership renewals are due and payable at the beginning of each year.

GENERAL MEETINGS

S.V.C.G. meets second Saturday of each month at Sonoma Public Library, 755 West Napa Street; hours: 9:30AM to 11AM unless otherwise notified. Meetings free; guests welcome.

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design. Even the best rider would have difficulty on the Tour 'de France riding a tricycle, so we put the pros on handmade carbon fiber frames and forks feature top shelf, aerospace grade materials, proprietary monocoque construction, and sterling craftsmanship.

The more complex the course the more likely it will be that specialized modifications will need to be made to the bicycle (the computer). There are many companies out there that produce fine components for modifications (insert your favorite Peripheral here). Of course the more experienced the rider the more likely it is that they will know exactly what to do with this custom modification, with out your explaining it to them (OS again).

Many of these race bikes are geared high for powerful riders, and can cover a lot of ground with each turn of the crank. The strength in the riders legs (The CPU) push the crank. The better the gearing the more distance that can be traveled with the least amount of effort. There seems to be better gearing available every few months.

Fortunately for the recreational rider, the bike manufacturer (Apple or Dell for example) has learned a lot from there race experience, and are able to produce high performance bicycles (iMac 2002 for example) that are as comfortable and easy to ride as a strand cruiser.

A: I've used the kitchen and food preparation as an analogy. (Refrigerator/freezer as storage, table as desktop, chairs as RAM, family members as hungry apps, etc.)

It might seem sexist at a glance, but something that an individual can relate to is the key. I just don't think a bike lends itself to the task.

The hard drive is the cupboard, the RAM is the skillet and the processor is the stove.

Donating Unused Computer Equipment

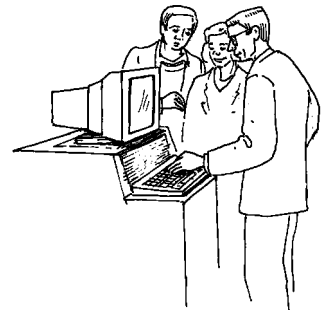
The URL listed is for the Computer Recycling Center. All of the info needed (and then some) is listed on the site.
<http://www.crc.org/>

Thanks to Wayne Till for that tip.

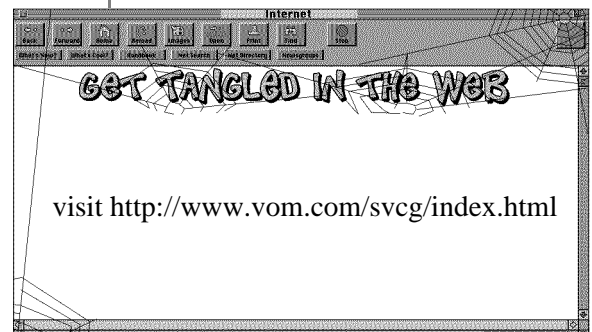
SVCG UG Benefits

As a benefit to being a member of the Sonoma Valley Computer Group, O'Reilly Press is giving you a 20% discount on all their books and software! For more information, please contact Kathy Aanestad at 935-6690 or email at 'aanestad@wco.com'.

In addition to the O'Reilly Press offer, SVCG belongs to the Apple User Group program whereby members can purchase Apple products at a savings. Contact Kathy Aanestad for user ID and password in order to access their online site. We need members to help with finding contacts for PC user group offers so that they can be included in the newsletter postings. ☺



SVCG



To

inform library patrons about the club, and the event, we will be installing an informational exhibit in the glass display of the library lobby for the month of April.

What Qualifies As Digital Art?

It is original computer generated art, using typical paint, draw, and photo editing programs. However, we've taken a wide definition that includes digital photographs captured with a digital camera. We also have a category for photo restoration. Submissions in that category must include the before and after print.

As you can imagine, there's lots to do to put this together. If you can help out with transporting, hanging art, distributing flyers, or any of a myriad of activities, please contact one of the board members right away. Every bit helps. Major kudos to your hardworking board members for agreeing to put on this event on short notice. Also, thanks to Stephan Buffy for working with us to sponsor and schedule the event.

This is something that I don't think has been done in the Valley, at least not here in Sonoma. It is a great opportunity for the community to learn about what they can do with their computer, our club, our affiliation with the Sonoma Valley Library, and to attract new members.

A submission form is included in this newsletter, so pick a favorite piece of digital art you have created and enter it in the showcase. One submission per artist. Showcase rules are on the flyer/submission.

Exhibit space is limited, so the selection committee will make determinations about representative pieces that will be a part of the two-week show.

Club Projector-

We are very close to obtaining a used projector from the North Coast Mac User Group. If all goes well, we will have it for the March meeting.

March Meeting-

Speaking of the March meeting, this is a chance to focus on hard drive organization. Do you have trouble finding files once you

have saved them on your drive? We'll talk about ways to simplify your folders to make it easier to find things.

If you have specific questions about your own directories or have something to share, bring it on a CD or PC-compatible 3.5" floppy and we will show it on the screen to discuss your question or tip. You can do a screen capture to save a view of your active screen and save it.

If you are on a Mac, use Command + Shift + 3. This will save a copy of your screen to the hard drive as Picture1, Picture2, etc.

If you are on Windows, you can use Alt + PrtScr (Found with the function keys). This will save a copy of the screen on the clipboard. Paste that copy into a paint or even a word processing program and stretch it out to make the text readable.

Bring your questions and answers and let's leave this meeting with tips for making our computer relationships easier and more rewarding.

See you there!

—Veda Lewis

Amish Virus

You have just received the Amish Virus. Since we have neither electricity nor computers, you are on the honor system. Please delete all of your files.

Thank thee!

Firewall Question

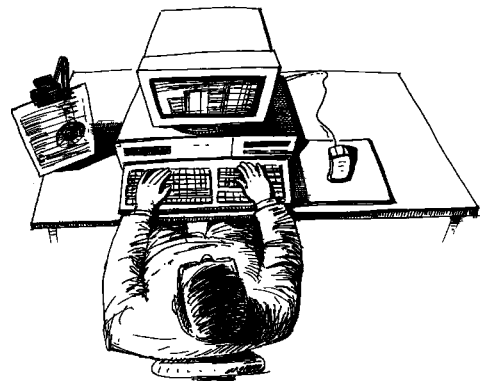
Anyone have a opinion about whether it's important to have a "personal" firewall to protect your computer from hackers? I understand the basic concept and know that some companies offer Firewall products. What I don't know is just how vulnerable a personal computer is with a dialup modem and whether it's worth getting a program like Norton's Personal Firewall. In the 12+ years that I've used Norton's Anti-Virus software, I've only had one experience with a

virus (caught it on floppy disk). Thoughts? —Orlin

A: While it is possible for a hacker to get into a dial-up account, it is difficult to determine when you would be connected, and your address through your ISP is dynamic...changes with each dial-up. So I think there is little likelihood of you being hacked if you use a dial-up connection. Cable or DSL connections are always on, and most addresses are static, making them much easier targets. A firewall is recommended for those connections. —Wally

A: Most of the "sicko" hackers want to reach the largest base of computers that they can, with the least amount of work or time. Therefore the Mac is a low priority target. I have only found one virus on a Mac computer and that was a used computer that I had purchased. On a dialup modem you are probably in a pretty low risk group. If you have DSL and a Linksys router, which supposedly has a firewall built in, it may protect you to a degree. I do not allow it to worry me that much. I just keep on searching, downloading and **BACKING UP**. This is just my personal opinion. —Briana

A: One of the secondary advantages of using a Router, such as the LinkSys, is that they provide a hardware firewall, in between you and the Internet. As long as you have changed the default password on your Router access screen, you have effectively become invisible to the outside world... That and a few other things can be checked out safely at This fellow has done extensive work, tracking down hackers who made the mistake of attacking him, in his business. He is one of the good guys, and I'm sure you will find a tone on info at his site. (Gibson research) <http://grc.com/> —Fran



Modem Is Connecting At Slower Speed

I have a 56K modem on/in both my laptop and my desktop, yet both of them connect to the Internet at only about 26K.

A: It's kind of like the mileage figures that the EPA mandates for cars — your mileage may vary. And a 56K modem can run at 56Kbps only under the best of circumstances: 1) The ISP's modem pool must also have the appropriate 56K modem termination equipment, 2) That equipment must be configured to actually accept and operate at 56Kbps speeds and not some lower rate, 3) Your modem must be configured to accept and operate at 56Kbps speeds (which is typically the default), 4) Your phone line must be relatively free from noise and other impairments, and 5) Life, the universe, and everything must be in proper alignment.

None of which is as common as one might like. The saving grace, as you've found, is that these modems will fall back to a lower transmission rate when phone

line conditions require this.

A couple of suggestions:

- 1) You might check with your ISP to see that the phone number you are dialing into actually is into 56K modem equipment, and not, say, into lower rate modem equipment.
- 2) If the ISP confirms your dial-in number is into a 56K modem pool, then you might tote your powerbook to other locations (friend's, work...) to see if you get different transmission performance. — Parka

A: It just might be the phone lines. I have the same problem. PacBell says they only guarantee voice service.

I called them and told them I had a lot of noise on the line. When they came out,

they replaced some corroded connections at the terminal box and my speeds picked up about 25%, but I haven't connected faster than 31K.

BTW, the 56K modems rarely connect faster than 44K even with good lines. —Elisha



Sonoma Valley Computer Group Membership Application/Renewal Form

New Applicant

Use information below

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

e-mail Address: _____



Send \$20 (individual) \$30 (family) check to:
 Sonoma Valley Computer Group
 POB 649
 El Verano, CA95433

Renewal (expiration date on label)

Use the name and address label on Page 12

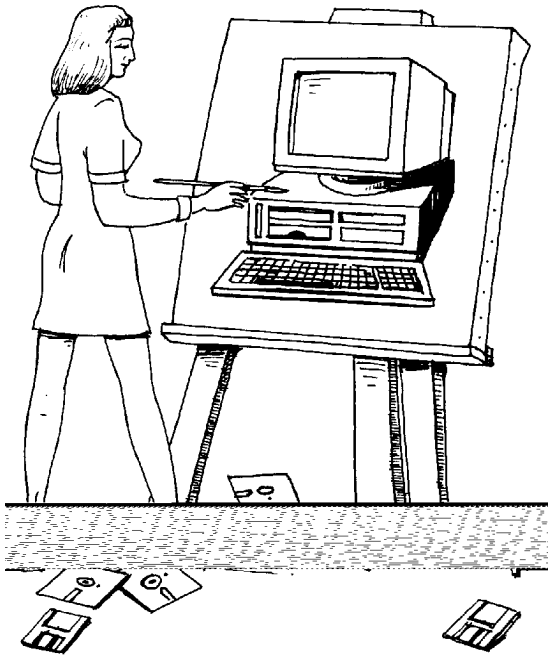
Platform: Mac PC WinNT
 Operating System: OS 8x Win3 Unix
 OS 9x Win95 Linux
 OS X Win98 WinME

Computer Model: _____

How did you hear about SVCG?

class club member
 newspaper newsletter

User Level: Novice Intermediate
 Advanced Expert



Digital Art Showcase

Co-sponsored by:
SONOMA VALLEY COMPUTER GROUP
SONOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

It's Coming!!!

The Event: The Sonoma Valley Computer Group (SVCG), in association with the Sonoma Valley Library, presents a digital art showcase. Sonoma Valley artists, amateur and professional, are invited to join in the fun by submitting an original artwork to the showcase. We're planning on having an artist's reception on May 11th, 2002 in conjunction with the May meeting of SVCG at the Sonoma Valley Library, 755 West Napa Street, Sonoma, California. Selected artists will be invited to show their techniques on the computer at the SVCG meeting, followed by the reception.

The Reason: The purpose of the event is to showcase the diverse creative talents of Sonoma Valley computer users, young and old, amateur and professional.

Limited submissions: Due to exhibit space limitations, each artist is limited to one submission. Submitted art must have the artist's identification affixed to the back of the print. The identification includes artist name,

Size of submission: Artwork can be up to 11" x 17". Digital prints must be affixed to a rigid background and in ready-to-hang condition. Submissions are limited to flat two-dimensional work, with no mixed media additions to the computer print or the frame, if included.

Categories:

- 1) Photography- Includes original digital photography, photo-restoration, photo-manipulation (for example, collage)
- 2) Paint
- 3) Drawing
- 4) Mixed digital media

Deadline for submittal: To be considered for the showcase, entries must be turned in to SVCG by April 27th.

Further details will be discussed at Saturday's meeting, so please come and join in on the fun.

Have You Heard?

UNITED STATES SAYS WEB USE HAS RISEN TO 54 PERCENT

The U.S. Commerce Department will release a report concluding that 54 percent of the national population—143 million—were using the Web as of September, a 26 percent gain over the year before. Separate studies from the private sector arrived at slightly lower estimates: Nielsen//NetRatings, for example, pegged the increase at 15 percent, or 115.2 million, in October. About 2 million new users came aboard every month in 2001, according to the government report. E-mail, the most popular online activity, was regularly used by 45 percent of the population, a 10 percent increase over 2000. The government report also indicates that the digital divide between America's well-to-do and its poor has started to shrink. Internet usage by America's most impoverished citizens increased at an annual rate of 25 percent between December 1998 and September 2001, compared to 11 percent among the wealthiest citizens. Among minorities, 33 percent more African Americans were using the Web each year between August 2000 and September 2001, while usage among Hispanics increased at a rate of 30 percent. (Wall Street Journal, 4 February 2002)

SENATOR URGES JUDGE TO BE WARY OF MICROSOFT DEAL

Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee, filed a public comment for U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in which he voiced "serious concerns" about the proposed antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the Justice Department. Kohl wrote that the settlement is rife with loopholes and qualifications that may not halt Microsoft's illegal software monopolization. He focused on measures that could sustain Microsoft's ban on supplying rival software providers with access to its Windows desktop and the internal functions of its operating system. The agreement also lacks "vigorous enforcement mechanisms," does not prevent Microsoft from integrating its operating system with add-on software code, and would allow the company to offer incentive payments to computer makers that exclusively feature Microsoft software, according to Kohl.

(Reuters, 1 February 2002)

WHY GOOGLE JUST LEAVES EVERYBODY GOGGLING

Google's second-most queried search term during 2001 was "CNN," which raises the question of why so many of Google's users are choosing Google to find CNN rather than just typing in www.cnn.com. The most compelling explanation is that many believe Google has a better chance of finding correct URLs than independent guesswork about a Web site's domain name. This proclivity for Google is tempering the frenzy for registering domain names, especially compared to two years ago when companies believed it was essential to own domain names semantically related to their business activities. One problem with Google's rise to predominance is that Google is an independent company that operates outside of regulation and could potentially use its power to manipulate searches.

(London Observer, 27 January 2002)

FAKE WEB DEGREES PERTURB NEW ZEALAND UNIV

Canterbury, Otago, and Auckland universities in New Zealand intend to sue a pair of offshore Web sites for selling bogus degrees. The schools are targeting fakedegree.co.uk and fakedegrees.com, which operate in Britain and the United States, respectively. Canterbury Pro-Vice-Chancellor John Raine said the New Zealand universities are worried that users of these services could tarnish their international reputations by using the fake degrees to secure jobs or academic positions. The U.K. site offers a wide variety of forged degrees and diplomas for \$500; the U.S. site sells them for \$145. Fakedegrees.com posts a disclaimer saying that its products are to be used strictly for novelty value and that the site waives all responsibility for abuse. Raine acknowledges that fake degree sites are probably here to stay and that employers should keep an eye out for such fraud. He insists that the universities "will try to bring whatever pressure we can for these sites to be shut down."

(Australian IT, 30 January 2002)

CHENEY UNVEILS REVAMPED GOVERNMENT WEB SITE

Vice President Dick Cheney on Wednesday introduced the redesigned FirstGov Web site <www.firstgov.gov>, which the government hopes will be a significant step forward in the way government responds to the public. The new site coordinates 35 million federal, state, and local government Web pages, allowing users to apply for jobs, renew driver's licenses, research laws, and many other activities. According to Mark Forman, who directs federal "e-government" efforts, the organization of the new site allows users to find what they are looking for within three mouse clicks. (Reuters, 27 February 2002)

GUILTY PLEABY SUSPECT IN WEB THEFT

John Sankus Jr., one of two men accused of being the leaders of the DrinkOrDie software piracy ring, pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge of federal conspiracy. The piracy network, which allegedly involves students at a number of U.S. colleges and universities, may be responsible for the illegal distribution of software worth more than one billion dollars. The investigation, which is run by the U.S. Customs Service, came to the public's attention in December with raids at M.I.T., UCLA, Duke, and other campuses around the nation. Allan J. Doody, the lead investigator, said that some students remain under investigation and that some may soon face criminal charges.

(New York Times, 28 February 2002)

CANADIAN SCIENTISTS LAUNCH RESEARCH "HOLODECK"

A new research center at the University of Calgary harkens back to the "holodeck" from the Star Trek television series. Java 3D is used to create virtual models of things ranging from a whole landscape to a single cell. Scientists go into the 10 x 10 foot laboratory wearing 3D glasses to view the models that are created. Companies including pharmaceutical firms, oil companies, and meteorologists will be able to use the facility, but the primary goal is to further medical research, particularly for complex genetic diseases such as Alzheimer's and cancer. (Reuters, 28 February 2002)

Thoughts On Scanned Photo Storage

Recently, I've finally started to scan our photos in and saving them digitally. I am bringing them in at 600 dpi (about 3000 x 2250) and storing them as TIFFs — which makes for a pretty large file (14 MB, on average). The tradeoff is, of course, that TIFF is a lossless format.

Now I am wondering if I am going overboard using TIFF. I would like to keep these files at a large enough resolution that I can print them at, say, double the original size without pixellation. I would also like to ensure that the image quality is stays up there - I don't want to see any artifacts and I want good color reproduction.

I have done some tests and I think I know how I want to store the images — just as a check, what I would like to know is what you all out there store your images as. If it is a lossy format, what “quality” do you use? —Bean

A: There is a compressed TIFF format that is lossless but won't produce files as small as JPEG — Alice

A: PNG is lossless, it'll give you a good 2:1 compression, but it's kinda slow. I've also seen that the LZW compression for TIFF is pretty good quality-wise and knocks it down in size a decent amount. You should try it several ways. I also would suggest, if you don't have (on the Mac) iPhoto, to save a few versions of each: 1) the main, printable, big version (TIFF or PNG) 2) a screen size JPEG (640x480) for browsing with decent quality 3) a small GIF thumbnail

Keep the names of each photo the same except for the suffix, which even though you have a Mac, would be a good idea to keep if you ever might transfer them over to a PC.

Keep in mind you can always go back and save them as a lower quality/resolution file. You can't go the other way. — Ellen

A: You don't say what kind of prints that you want to make. If you are printing to an inkjet printer then 200 dpi at the output image size will give you about as good quality as you are going to get. If you are want to print 2x the original size then scanning at 400 dpi would do it. Your choice of 600 dpi is even better, especially if you will be sending files to service bureaus for printing. They often want 300 dpi at the output.

Saving the images as a high quality (80% or better) JPEG would be my choice. — Lea

A: Keep this in mind:—a 100K jpeg has more information than a 100K Tiff (or BMP, or any other lossless format), it will print a better picture. The Tiff has already lost some info in the scanning process, so don't think of it as the “perfect” copy that you can't alter.

So, if a primary concern is storage space, you should use jpeg compression. — Guerrelmo

What Is MPEG-4?

MPEG-4 was ratified as a standard by the Motion Picture Experts Group in 1999. While it has audio components, its video features have drawn the most attention. Notably, MPEG-4 is capable of compressing massive video files into pieces small enough to send over mobile networks. Backers tout it as one potential “killer app” for the fast mobile phone networks that will be built over the next few years and will desperately need new applications that can generate revenue.

The interactive features that MPEG-4 offers; for example, video could function almost like a Web page, allowing people to interact with the picture on the screen or to manipulate individual elements in real time.

The ability to give video the kind of interactivity that only Web sites and video games now enjoy has ignited the imaginations of advertisers and some Hollywood studios.

Apple has been a proponent of open MPEG-4 standards for some time, having co-founded the Internet Streaming Media Alliance (ISMA) in December 2000. Other members include Cisco Systems, IBM, Kasenna, Philips Electronics and Sun Microsystems.

Renew Your Membership

Check the expiration date on your newsletter label. If it reads '2001', you need to renew. Just fill out the application form in the newsletter and mail it in. Thank you. See you at the next meeting.

Worm cont'd from Pg. 11

c:” to the autoexec.bat file in order to reformat the infected computer the next time it reboots.

Gigger also adds to the Windows directory a script.ini file to spread by mIRC, and if the infected computer is connected to a network, Gigger will create copies of itself as:

```
\Windows\Start  
Menu\Programs\StartUp\Msoe.hta.
```

Code within the virus contains the text “This virus is donation from all Bulgarians.”

Prevention

Users of Microsoft Outlook 2002 and of Outlook 2000 who have installed the Security Update are not automatically protected from Gigger. The Outlook Security Update does not block e-mail with HTM attachments. Users can, however, disable the Windows Scripting Host. For information regarding that, see “How to turn off Windows Scripting Host.” In general, you should not open attached files in e-mail.

Removal

A few antivirus software companies have updated their signature files to include this worm. This will stop the infection upon contact and, in some cases, will remove an active infection from your system. For more information, see McAfee, Sophos, Symantec, and Trend Micro.

Meet The Chip That Will Revolutionize Digital Photography

David Coursey,
Executive Editor, AnchorDesk
<http://www.zdnet.com/anchordesk/stories/story/0,10738,2847371,00.html>

You were just beginning to understand the pixel as something more than just shorthand for “picture element.” Perhaps, like me, you were also coming to grips with its true significance to digital photography. Now this.

Someone has just shown up to change the rules.

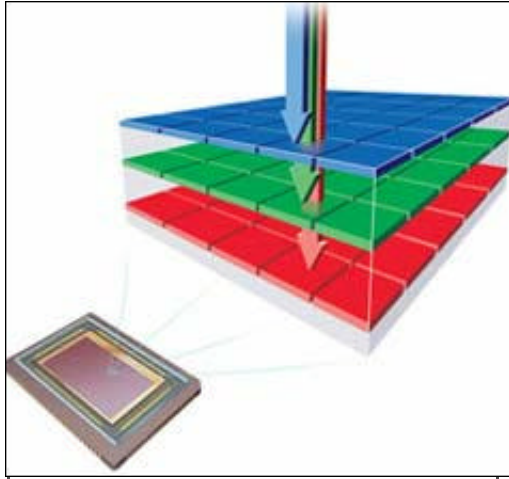
THAT SOMEONE is Silicon Valley pioneer Carver Mead. His start-up company, Foveon, has just begun shipping its X3, a new sensor for digital cameras that a source no less august than The New York Times says matches “the quality of film.”

Mead, 67, has a long history in the semiconductor and integrated circuit industries and is a professor emeritus at the California Institute of Technology. He started Foveon Inc. in 1997 with the aim of improving the performance of digital cameras—first in high-end professional systems, and now, with the new sensor, in consumer models as well.

The X3 sensor produces approximately 3.53 million pixels. This 3.53-megapixel resolution is no great shakes by conventional standards, where professional cameras generally have 5-megapixels and could really use more.

BUT HERE’S THE THING:

Mead’s pixels aren’t like anybody else’s pixels. First, they behave differently. Current technologies require each pixel to capture a specific color—red, green, or blue—which is then assembled and



Foveon X3 image sensors feature three layers of photodetectors, which take advantage of how red, green, and blue light penetrate silicon to different depths.

processed to create a more or less lifelike image.

Foveon’s chip doesn’t pre-assign a color to a pixel; instead, it determines color based on how deeply the photons from the focused image penetrate the X3 sensor. This, according to the company, greatly simplifies capturing the image and improves both resolution and color fidelity. The basic principal at work is that the color of light affects how deeply it penetrates a layer of silicon, allowing depth to be used to determine the color. The Times quotes a digital imaging expert as saying Foveon may have found “the engineering Holy Grail” of next-generation photography.

THANKS TO ITS new technology, Foveon estimates its pixels are worth about two of anyone else’s—meaning its X3 sensors produce resolution equivalent to 7 million regular pixels. We’ll get to see for ourselves this spring when Sigma, a Japanese camera company not known as a digital photography leader, is expected to ship the first Foveon-equipped camera, priced at around \$3,000.

And, oh yes, Foveon says its sensors are less expensive than the CMOS and CCD sensors used currently. If this is true—and Foveon is able to effectively compete with the big Asian (Sony) and European (STMicroelectronics) companies that provide most of today’s sensors—then a price war could be brewing.

This might start as early as this fall if National Semiconductor can turn out Foveon’s designs in quantity.

Another claim for the new sensor is that it can easily switch between still and motion photography. This is difficult, because stills require high resolution while movies require a high frame rate (images per second). Foveon is able to combine groups of pixels in such a manner that resolution is lowered while the ability to capture images quickly is enhanced. In about a year, Foveon expects its manufacturers to introduce a line of consumer cameras that combine an effective 3-megapixel still camera with a digital movie camera. While similar devices already exist, Foveon’s will provide equally high quality for both stills and movies.

IT IS PROBABLY worth a mention, for the sake of completeness, that Foveon isn’t the only company whose pixels are different. Most people never notice, but one of the reasons for differences between today’s cameras claiming the same pixel resolution is that some have slightly larger or smaller pixels. I learned this talking to a Nikon rep, who says his company’s best digital camera uses smaller square pixels, while the less expensive models use minutely larger rectangular pixels. In practice this isn’t a big deal, but it explains some of the difference in image quality between a semi-pro 5-megapixel camera and a professional model.

Foveon, however, takes this to a new level, and if its quality claims bear out in the marketplace, we may need to find a new way to express image quality in camera specifications. Or perhaps we’ll just understand that Foveon pixels are twice as good as the other guy’s.

Fladbed Scanner vs. Film Scanner

I have hundreds of slides and negatives to scan. Over the years, I’ve read folks in the know say that the way to go is with a separate film scanner, not a flatbed scanner. Is this still true?

I just saw an ad for Canon's affordable film scanner CanoScan FS27110U (SCSI) for \$400. CanoScan FS2720U (USB) for \$600. CanoScan FS400US (USB and SCSI) for \$1000

I would consider the SCSI as my computer has a SCSI card installed and I believe SCSI is supposed to be faster than USB, yes?

What is your opinion regarding flatbed scanners now vs. the dedicated film scanners? I am also interested in if you have used any of the above Canon scanners and your impressions.

A: If you want to put the scans on the web or print small (4x6) prints, the flatbed with adapter will do. But you would never be able to get the rez out of it to do much better than that. A dedicated film scanner will let you print wall poster size (20x30 or better! - I have done this myself).

SCSI is definitely a bit faster than USB. FW is the way to go if you can... I would definitely go for the best scanner you could afford. Check the online review sites. Most are over 4000 dpi now, which crushes my 2700, so I can only imagine what kind of fidelity is available. — Walt

A: Just a note: SCSI is faster than USB but it usually doesn't matter on scanners because the mechanical scanner is way slower than the buss.

Slide scanners generally are better than flatbeds for slides. —Anne

A: Since you have SCSI, go with that. I have a flatbed that doe SCSI and USB, Scan times are double if the scanner is attached with USB instead of SCSI. A 20 second scan using SCSI will take at least 45 seconds with a USB cable.

Anyway, your looking at a lot of work to scan all those slides. Perhaps look for a film scanner that offers a slide feeder. I think some of the Nikon 35mm film scanners offer that as an option. Stack up 50 slides and let it go to work. — Kirk

A: I assume that your slides and film are 35mm. There is no flatbed scanner that

will do more than a minimally acceptable lowres scan of 35mm.

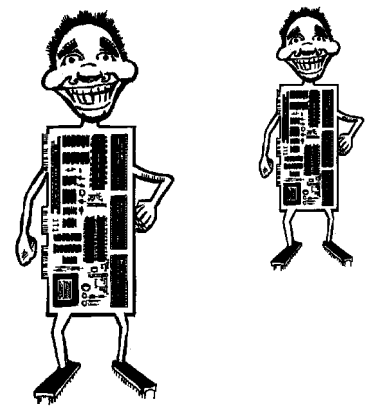
The best slide scanner on the market today is the Nikon 4000 ED. If you don't want to spend that much money there are others by Nikon, Polaroid, Minolta and HP that will give you quality scans at more affordable prices.

The two most important quality factors are **resolution** of course, and **Dmax**. Dmax is short for maximum density and is a measure of the density range that a scanner can capture. The higher the better. —Huppa

A: The Polaroid 4000+ has the best software of any of them. That's the one I'm planning to get (when I can raise the money).

A significant portion of the cost of the Nikon 4000ED are the additional ASF capabilities. Using Digital ICE triples scan times and slightly softens the sharpness of the image. If you can live without that stuff, meaning your film is in pretty good shape and you clean it before scanning, you can get a less expensive scanner such as the Canon.

I played with the Canon at MacWorld Expo last summer. It seemed quite acceptable. That one also has a schmutz-removal feature. I tried that out, and the results were good in terms of sharpness. But there was one odd side effect, which was a slight color shift (reddish). You could probably correct that more easily than you could remove every piece of gunk your scanned image. — NezPerce



Printer Problem

My Epson 740 when asked to print returns: "Unknown Error has occurred Error: -192"

Have reloaded driver from Epson site, checked all the connections, etc. without effect.

Printer has power, goes through its usual chatter at start-up, just does not accept a print order. TIAfor any suggestions, Pat

Hi Pat,
Error 192 means "resource not found". In other words, your computer doesn't see the printer. If you have more than one printer, you may need to select it again as the default printer. Have you moved your computer and/or printer? Have you checked the port settings, are they correct? Check the pins at both ends of the printer cable, are they straight? Can the printer print a self test page? Does the problem occur with more than one application?

I would answer all these questions as possible reasons for the error message.

Best Sites for Digital Cameras

Ok I know its been asked before but I am wanting to buy a camera rather quickly for my trip. (I have large hands so need decent size buttons) Hoping to go no higher than the \$500—\$700 range. The other choice they list is the Nikon coolpix 995 (Costco special 699) Does anyone recommend either of these cameras.—I. Wanna Camera

A: I have the new Olympus D-40 that has 4 megapixels and is very small. It has been reviewed lately in MacAddict or Macworld, both of which I got this past week. It retails for \$799 but Costco has it for \$749 (I think(here is the web site;

<http://search.olympusamerica.com/search/?s p - q = D - 4 0 + Z o o m & s p - k = & s p - a = sp1000153>

A: I have the Nikon CoolPix 800 and I LOVE it! I think Juan has the 950 and from what he said at the last meeting, he loves his. I don't think you can go wrong with Nikon. I give it a top rating. I did a lot of research when I bought mine, by the way — about two years ago. The only other serious contender was the Canon (I bought one for my brother who has been a Canon fan, and I got it on sale). Hope this helps.

A: dpreview.com and megapixel.net have comprehensive reviews. Everybody has that \$699 deal on 995s. It's with \$100 mfg rebate usually and probably because a new model is coming out or overstock. bhphotovideo.com is a reputable internet dealer who has everything at good prices and are not New York gray market shysters. Maybe not the very best (cheap) prices by search, but normal street prices. Save CA tax.

A: The best site for digital camera reviews (IMHO) is:
<http://www.steves-digicams.com>

He has everything you could want to know about any digital camera.

A: You can't really go wrong with Nikon,

Olympus or Canon. You just have to decide which features are most important. I prefer Compact Flash media. It's available in much larger sizes than Smart Media. You have to remember that the more pixels a camera has, fewer images will fit on the memory card. I have a 4 mega pixel Olympus E-10, at it's highest resolution (uncompressed TIFF), the images are 11.5 megs each. In JPEG mode, the images are 2.5 megs each. When you are budgeting for you camera purchase, you should also consider buying another media card. Media is about \$1 per meg.

A: Steve's digicams is a one of my favorite sites, too. A couple others I like are:
Digital Camera Resource
<http://www.dcresource.com/>

Digital Photography Review
<http://www.dpreview.com/>

Imaging Resource <http://www.imaging-resource.com/>

A: I have a canon s110 digital elph, which I love. It's quite small, though, so it probably wouldn't work for you. Fits in my pocket!

A: I have the Cannon PowerShot A20 and really like it. It's easy to use, the software that came with it was very mac friendly (and did a good job of stitching my panorama shots together) and fits very comfortably in my hand. I used it on vacation in New England last year and was very pleased. Sonnie

A: I think the focus by the manufacturers on the largest megapixel camera is a good idea for them but not for us. It is not needed, IMHO. For example: the 2.1 mega pixel camera I currently own provides PLENTY of resolution, and takes up a lot less room on the memory card, and on the hard drive. Also easier to scrunch down to email.

Most 3, 4 or even 5 megapixel camera's DO NOT HAVE a zoom of more than 3x. some cheat and claim another 2x DIGITAL zoom, which is just using all that extra megapixels that are taking up so

much room on the mem card and HD, to 'zoom'in.

A: I like having a 10 to one zoom, in that it acutally does provide a telephoto, instead of 'zooming' from wide angle to equivalent to 50mm regular lens. The one I have and really like is the Olympus c700 with 10 to one zoom, small enough, easy to use, still about \$600 and well worth it. I bought a 64 meg card for \$60, and can store 128 pics on it. Costco now has 128meg cards for \$60.

A: I say: choose wisely, not in a hurry.

A: I have a Canon Power Shot S100, it is a very sophisticated digital camera that works well for both people and landscapes. It compact size is great, but the small battery capacity requires a spare charged battery.

I shoot at full resolution with a 128meg CF card (about \$65 at CompUSA) I get about 72 images in the hires mode, and about 200 images in the medium mode. The camera came with a 8meg CF card that I feel is not usable except to test the camera. I got used to the small buttons. Check that any camera that you buy is compatible with iPhoto. I would like a larger display screen. Sony has a 2.5 inch display, and uses a 3.5"CD storage media that address the storage problem

A: You need to select the camera that you feel better in your hand and have the features that you want. I have a Casio QV2900, 2.1 megapixels but a 8x optical zoom. The zoom was the thing that I was caring about. And I love it. My wife have a Nikon Coolpix 775 and she LOVE it. She carrying her Nikon to everywhere.

A: The CoolPix 885 is small, 3 megapixels at \$600.- or little less. I vote for this (I want one)

My Opinion:

1. Nikon (any) the best option.
2. If you uses OS X you don't need worry about the software that come with the camera, OS X does everything.
3. Megapixels: 2.1 if a good resolution but staring with 3 megapixels you have enough resolution for print with photographic quality. Remember that the megapixels are images at 72 dpi, for print you need resizes to 300 dpi at least, that means, the picture became smaller. With 3 megapixels or more

you are able to do that and print a picture a good size (normal photo size or bigger).

A: I noticed that the latest issue of Consumer Reports has a review on the different brands of digital cameras.

Protect Your PC From Viruses

By Robert Vamosi

A few minutes of prevention is better than several hours of frustration and lost data.

Today, a worm or virus can arrive on anyone's machine through e-mail. Before you lose a day's work to the latest malicious virus, follow these precautions.

1) Download Microsoft's Outlook Security Patch. If you haven't already installed it, download the Outlook 98 Security Patch or the Outlook 2000 Security Patch (which requires Office 2000 Service Release 1a). Please note that this patch does not include Outlook Express.

2) Don't open attachments. One way to prevent virus infections is not to open attachments. Even if the e-mail is from a known source, be careful. A virus may take the mailing list from an infected computer and send out new messages with a destructive payload attached. Always scan an attached file for viruses before you open it. And unless it's a file or an image you are expecting, delete it.

3) Stay informed. Did you know that there are virus and security alerts almost every day? Keep up-to-date on breaking viruses and solutions by bookmarking our Virus Alert Topic Center.

4) Get protected. If you don't already have antivirus software on your machine, acquire some now. If you're a home or individual user, check out CNET's reviews of the top antivirus packages, then grab the latest software at CNETDownload.com. If you're on a network, check with your network administrator first. If you're not sure

if your existing antivirus software is up-to-date, scan your system for free to find out.

5) Scan your system regularly. If you're just loading antivirus software for the first time, it's a good idea to let it scan your entire system. It's better to start with your PC clean and free of virus problems. Often, the antivirus program can be set to scan each time the computer is rebooted or on a periodic schedule. Some apps scan in the background while you are connected to the Internet. Make it a regular habit to scan for viruses.

6) Update your antivirus software. Now that you have virus protection software installed, make sure it's up-to-date. Some antivirus protection programs have a feature that will automatically link to the Internet and add new virus detection code whenever the software vendor discovers a new threat. You can also download updates from CNET CatchUp.

Robert Vamosi is an associate editor for CNET Software and Internet Services.

Gigger Worm

The Gigger "update" worm tries to reformat your hard drive

By Robert Vamosi

<http://www.cnet.com/software/0-7760531-8-8443338-1.html>

Javascript isn't just for Web pages anymore. There have been a few viruses written in Javascript, and last week one of them, "Gigger" (js.gigger.a@mm), surfaced on the Internet. While the antivirus software companies have given it a low ranking, Gigger weighs in a 6 on the CNET Virus Meter because it has the potential to spread and delete all the files on your hard drive. How to stop Gigger? Use an antivirus software program regularly--it will prevent worms like Gigger from taking you by surprise. In this issue, I'm continuing our review of popular antivirus apps with a quick look at Computer Associate's EZ Antivirus.

The Gigger "update" worm tries to reformat your hard drive

By Robert Vamosi

This JavaScript worm poses as a Microsoft Outlook upgrade.

Don't be taken in by Internet worm Gigger, which poses as a Microsoft update. Gigger (js.gigger.a@mm) attempts to spread itself to everyone in your Outlook Address Book, propagate via mIRC, and copy itself to computers connected on a local network. Gigger then tries to delete all the files on your hard drive the next time the computer reboots. Written in JavaScript, this 17K worm uses the Windows Scripting Host to execute on infected systems. Although there have been few reports of it worldwide, Gigger has the potential to damage computers and overwhelm e-mail servers and currently ranks a 6 on the CNET Virus Meter.

How it works

Gigger arrives as e-mail. The subject line reads either "Outlook Express Update" or has the e-mail address of the recipient. The body text says either "MSNSoftware Co." or "Microsoft Outlook 98." The attached file is always mmsn_offline.htm.

If a user opens the attached file, Gigger creates the following files in the root directory:

Bla.hta
B.htm

Gigger creates these files in the following directories:

C:\Windows\Samples\Wsh\Charts.js
C:\Windows\Samples\Wsh\Charts.vbs
C:\Windows\Help\Mmsn_offline.htm

Gigger also creates the following Registry keys:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows Scripting Host\Settings\Timeout

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\The Grave\badUsers\v2.0

and adds NAV DefAlert to the Registry key

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

Finally, it adds the line "ECHO y|format

[Worm cont'd on Pg. 7](#)



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Sonoma Valley Computer Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: Saturday, 3/8/2002

Place: Sonoma Public Library
755 West Napa Street

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Topic: *Computer Basics Review*. We'll talk about ways to simplify your folders to make it easier to find things; how to save; where to save files; how to organize files, folders; tips, tricks, and shortcuts. So come with your helpful tips and/or questions.